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ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES STRENGTHENS FIGHT AGAINST GUN CRIME WITH ADVANCED BALLISTICS TECHNOLOGY

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The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has significantly enhanced its capacity to combat gun-related crime following the acquisition of state-of-the-art ballistics and forensic technology for the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF).

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Disaster Management and Immigration, Major the Honourable St. Claire Leacock, formally accepted the advanced forensic systems on behalf of the Government during a ceremony held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, as part of a regional firearms trafficking workshop hosted by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS).

The equipment, provided through the continued partnership between CARICOM IMPACS and the United States Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), includes a Bullet Catcher system and the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) BRASSTRAX platform.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Minister Leacock described the acquisition as a major step forward in the nation's efforts to strengthen public safety and improve criminal investigations.

"Today marks a pivotal and transformative leap forward in how we protect our borders, defend our communities, and deliver justice. Through the enduring partnership between CARICOM IMPACS and the United States INL, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines now has access to advanced scientific tools that will significantly strengthen our fight against gun violence and organised crime."

The new technology will allow local investigators to rapidly process and analyze ballistic evidence, dramatically reducing the time required to connect firearms to criminal activities. The Bullet Catcher system enables forensic specialists to safely test-fire recovered weapons while preserving critical evidence, while the IBIS BRASSTRAX platform captures high-resolution digital images of bullets and cartridge casings for comparison against regional databases.

This enhanced capability will enable the RSVGPF to identify links between firearms used in crimes both locally and across the Caribbean, supporting intelligence-led investigations and strengthening regional cooperation against illegal firearms trafficking.

Minister Leacock noted that the introduction of the technology represents a shift towards more modern, evidence-based law enforcement.

“If a firearm is used in a crime in a neighbouring territory and subsequently trafficked into Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, our investigators will now have the ability to make critical connections far more quickly. This technology strengthens our capacity to bring offenders to justice and disrupt criminal networks operating across our region.”

The Minister also expressed appreciation to CARICOM IMPACS and the United States Government for their continued support in building regional security capacity.

He challenged members of the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force to fully utilise the new equipment and maintain the highest standards of professionalism in handling forensic evidence.

“These tools are only as effective as the professionals who use them. I urge our officers to employ these systems with diligence, integrity, and precision. Let this technology become a powerful weapon in our efforts to reduce gun violence, dismantle criminal enterprises, and keep our citizens safe.”

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remains committed to strengthening national security through strategic partnerships, modern technology, and enhanced law enforcement capabilities as it continues to build safer communities throughout the nation.

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